

Questions and Answers

2006/2007 Stormwater Compensation Fund Grants RFP Maine Department of Environmental Protection

October 19, 2006

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection issued its 2006-2007 Request For Proposals, 'Stormwater Compensation Projects to Reduce Phosphorus Export in Lake Watersheds' on September 5, 2006. The Department accepted questions in writing about the RFP until October 18, 2006. Five (5) questions were received, summarized below. This document can be found with the RFP on the Maine DEP web page at <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/rfp.htm>

Question #1 of 5: Are monies in the respective watershed accounts in the Stormwater Compensation Fund spent down to zero each year, or are they carried over from year to year? I.e., do the funds accumulate from year to year if they aren't awarded?

Response: Yes. Stormwater Compensation funds that are not awarded under a given RFP are carried over to the following year and accrue over time. For example, if the Taylor Pond watershed has \$1,400 in its account for the 2006-2007 RFP and none of the money is awarded under that RFP, then the amount available for that watershed under the 2007-2008 RFP will be \$1,400 plus whatever additional stormwater comp funds are received for the watershed in the interim.

Question #2 of 5: Does an applicant need to request *all* of the funds available for a stormwater compensation watershed, or can just a portion of the funds be requested?

Response: Although DEP prefers that projects be designed to utilize all of the available funds for a watershed, it is not required by the RFP.

Question #3 of 5: Can Stormwater Compensation Funds be used for the specific purpose of purchasing technical items such as data loggers, computer software, construction of a storage database, etc., for later use in conducting future stormwater surveys that may be undertaken in the watershed?

Response: No. The primary focus of the Stormwater Comp RFP (Section 4) is to provide grant funds for projects whose main purpose is to treat or eliminate polluted runoff. Purchasing equipment generically for possible use in future projects, and/or use of the grant funds for surveys where there is no direct treatment or reduction of polluted runoff, does not meet the intent of the RFP.

Question #4 of 5: Can Stormwater Compensation Funds be used to sustain a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) in a watershed?

Response: Yes, provided that 1.) the YCC Program is designed and operated on a watershed-wide basis (i.e., it uses a *comprehensive* approach not restricted to just one type of pollution problem or area), and 2.) the proposal description clearly reflects what the work will entail and clearly shows that the program will meet the RFP watershed program focus (RFP Section 4.2.4) of long-term maintenance and/or implementation of phosphorus mitigation measures.

Question #5 of 5: Can Stormwater Compensation Funds be used to make upgrades or improvements to the gate, flashboards or related structures on a dam used to control lake water levels, for the purpose of making it easier or more convenient to control the water level in the lake?

Response: No. Stormwater Compensation Funds can only be used to take actions that provide for long-term elimination, reduction or treatment of chronic phosphorus sources.

(end of questions/responses)